

DELL

STORY BY

NO. 946
10¢

THE BIG COUNTRY



IT WAS TOO BIG
FOR ONE MAN
TO HAVE IT ALL!

Released thru UNITED ARTISTS

They warned the dude: "The Big Country demands big courage!"



To his fiancée it meant fighting hopeless odds...



To his rival it meant vicious brawling...



To a cattle baron it meant walking into ambush...



But courage was none of these to the quiet dude...



And one day he would have to prove it—all alone!

GREGORY PECK JEAN SIMMONS
CARROLL BAKER CHARLTON HESTON
in WILLIAM WYLER's production

THE BIG COUNTRY

Co-starring
BURL IVES CHARLES BICKFORD

with CHUCK CONNORS ALFONSO BEDOYA

Screenplay by ERNIE B. WOOD and ST. BARTLETT and ROBERT WILDER
Screen Adaptation by JESSAMYN WEST and ROBERT WYLER Based on the
Novel by RONALD HAMILTON Produced by WILLIAM WYLER and GREGORY PECK

Directed by WILLIAM WYLER

An Anthony—Worldwide Production Released this UNITED ARTISTS

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THE BIG COUNTRY

AS THE STAGE STOPS IN A SMALL SOUTHERN TEXAS TOWN...

BETTER DUCK INSIDE THE HOTEL,
MISTER! SOMETHING'S WRONG! AREN'T
ANY PEOPLE AROUND ON THE STREET!



COULD YOU TELL ME
HOW TO GET TO THE
TERRILL PLACE---THE
LADDER RANCH?

IT'S QUITE A PIECE OUT
OF TOWN! I RECKON
YOU'RE THE YOUNG
FELLOW WHO'S GOING
TO MARRY MISS PAT TERRILL!

IF SHE HASN'T
CHANGED HER
MIND! AND NOT
SEEING ANYONE
HERE TO MEET
ME---

---NO ONE'S FOOL
ENOUGH TO WALK
OUTSIDE! NOT WITH
THE TROUBLE ABOUT
TO START BETWEEN
THE TWO LADDER
HANDS AND BUCK
HANNESEY!

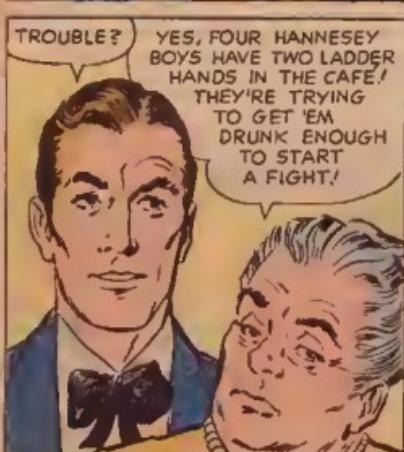


TROUBLE?

YES, FOUR HANNESEY
BOYS HAVE TWO LADDER
HANDS IN THE CAFE!
THEY'RE TRYING
TO GET 'EM
DRUNK ENOUGH
TO START
A FIGHT!

AND IF THE
FIGHT STARTS?

OLD RUFUS WILL HAVE HAD
HIS SON BUCK MANAGE IT
CLEVERLY ENOUGH TO MAKE
IT SEEM THAT TERRILL'S MEN
STARTED IT! THEN HANNESEY WILL
HAVE A CHANCE TO REALLY START A
SHOWDOWN! YOU
SURE PICKED THE
WRONG TIME
TO COME
A-CALLING AT
THE LADDER
RANCH!



MR. MCKAY? THERE'S A BUCKBOARD OUTSIDE FOR YOU! TAKE YOUR FIRST RIGHT AND YOU'LL FIND MISS TERRILL WAITING FOR YOU! BUT MAKE IT QUICK--- LEAD WILL BE FLYING SOON!

THANKS!

THAT'S A HECK OF A HAT TO BRING TO THIS COUNTRY, FRIEND! IF YOU DON'T WATCH OUT, SOME COWBOY'S LIABLE TO SHOOT IT OFF FOR FUN!

I'LL RE MEMBER THAT!



IF YOU NEED HELP AND
SOMEBODY CAN LEND
ME A WEAPON PREFERABLY
A RIFLE SINCE I'M NOT USED
TO REVOLVING PISTOLS...

...DON'T BE
A HERO
MR. MCKAY!
THIS IS
NO PLACE
FOR GREEN-
HORNS!

MAYBE NOT---
BUT I AM HERE!



JIM, DARLING!

HELLO, PAT! IT'S BEEN SIX
MONTHS---BUT YOU'RE EXACTLY
AS I REMEMBER YOU!

THERE WERE TIMES
I WAS CERTAIN YOU
WEREN'T COMING---
THAT YOU'D POSTPONE
OUR WEDDING TO GET
RID OF ME!

THERE WERE
TIMES I
WONDERED IF
YOU'D STILL
HAVE ME
WHEN I DID
COME!



JULIE MARAGON,
I'D LIKE YOU TO
MEET JIM!

HELLD, JIM! I'D HAVE
RECOGNIZED YOU EASILY
FROM ALL PAT HAS TOLD ME
ABOUT YOU! COME IN AND
WAIT WHILE SHE
GETS READY!

MINUTES LATER...

YES! AND HE
PICKED THE BEST
PIECE OF LAND FOR
HIS OWN--THE ONE
THE TERRILLS AND
HANNESEYS
BOTH WANT!



IT'S HERE, AT THE
JUNCTION OF TWO
RIVERS! IT'S THE
ONLY PLACE WITH
PLENTY OF WATER
—AND TO RAISE
CATTLE YOU
NEED WATER!

BUT YOU SAID
YOU WERE TEACH-
ING SCHOOL NOW.
NOT RUNNING A
RANCH! WHY
HAVEN'T YOU
SOLD OUT TO
ONE OF THEM?

WELL, IF YOU'RE
NOT HOLDING
OUT FOR LOVE
OR MONEY...
WHY ARE YOU?



IT ISN'T EASY NOT SELLING
OUT! I DON'T LIKE SAYING
"NO" TO PAT'S FATHER, AND
OLD RUFUS HANNESEY KEEPS
SENDING HIS SON BUCK OVER,
HOPING HE CAN GET MY LAND
BY MARRY-
ING ME!



IF I SELL TO MAJOR TERRILL, OLD RUFUS WILL
START A RANGE WAR TO GET IT! BUT WHILE I
DON'T SELL IT, RUFUS FIGURES HE STILL MAY GET
IT LEGALLY SOMEDAY, AND
THAT KEEPS THE PEACE!

BUT HOW LONG
CAN YOU
STALL THEM
OFF?



OLD RUFUS MAY DIE OR THE COUNTY
MAY BECOME TOO SETTLED FOR BIG
RANCHES TO SUCCEED! I'LL HOLD
OUT AS LONG AS I CAN KEEP PEACE
HERE! MEN'S LIVES
DEPEND ON THAT—AND
YOURS AMONG
THEM!



HERE COMES STEVE!
LET'S SEE WHAT
HAPPENED IN TOWN!



WELL, STEVE?
WHEN THEY SAW THEY WERE
OUTNUMBERED, THERE WASN'T
ANY FIGHT IN THEM!



YOU MIGHT AS WELL START, MA'AM! WE'LL RIDE
A MILE OR SO BEHIND YOU---RECKON YOU TWO
WOULD AS SOON TRAVEL ALONE!

BETTER CHANGE
YOUR CLOTHES
JIM!



WHAT'S WRONG
WITH WHAT
I'M WEARING?
YOU'RE NOT GOING
TO THE RANCH WEAR-
ING THAT HAT,
ARE YOU?



MY DEAR, IF YOU THINK I'M GOING
TO APPEAR BEFORE YOUR FATHER IN
A SOMBRERO, HIGH-HEELED BOOTS AND
WEARING A REVOLVER, YOU'RE WRONG!
NO MATTER WHAT I WEAR, I'M GOING
TO LOOK LIKE A TENDERFOOT
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I AM!

SOON...

LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IS
WAITING FOR US UP AHEAD



HANNESEY'S
MEN, I SUPPOSE!

YES! LOOK'S LIKE
BUCK ON THE BAY!
BUT HOW DID
YOU KNOW?

IT SEEMED LOGICAL! THEY WERE
ROUTED BY SUPERIOR NUMBERS
IN TOWN SO THEY DECIDED TO LIE
IN WAIT OUT HERE! I DON'T
SUPPOSE WE CAN OUTRUN THEM?

I WOULDN'T
RUN FROM THAT BUNCH
OF SADDLE
TRAMPS!



THEY AREN'T LIKELY
TO HARM YOU,
ARE THEY?

EVEN THE HANNESEYS
WOULDN'T TOUCH A
WOMAN! THE WHOLE
COUNTY WOULD STRING
THEM UP!

THEN WE WON'T
NEED THE RIFLE!
SO THAT'S THE
FELLOW YOU'RE
GOING TO MARRY,
MISS TERRILL! HE
SURE WEARS FANCY
CLOTHES!



HIS HAT WOULD SURE MAKE
A GOOD TARGET!

CLIP IT,
BOYS!





AND I DON'T THINK MUCH OF THEIR MARKSMANSHIP! COME ON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



NEXT MORNING, AT THE LADDER RANCH...

HOW DO YOU FEEL, JIM?

A LOT BETTER, MAJOR TERRILL!



FIRST, LET ME THANK YOU FOR YOUR BEHAVIOR! I KNOW PATRICIA IS IMPULSIVE! IT'S NOT HER NATURE TO WAIT SIX MONTHS FOR ANYTHING! SHE'D HAVE PREFERRED TO ELOPE, BUT I'M GLAD YOU'LL BE MARRIED HERE!

IT'S MY MARRIAGE, TOO, SIR, AND I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE RUSHED INTO!



THESE BELONGED TO MY FATHER! THEY'RE FRENCH DUELING PISTOLS AND QUITE ACCURATE! I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE THEM!

THAT'S MOST KIND, JIM! I SEE THEY WERE USED!



YES, WHEN I WAS A YOUNG BOY MY FATHER MADE ME PRACTICE WITH THEM! HE SAID A GENTLEMAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEND HIS HONOR!

YOU SEEM TO HAVE A SOMewhat DIFFERENT ATTITUDE! PATRICIA SAID YOU REFUSED TO DEFEND YOURSELF YESTERDAY!



PERHAPS I DID NOT FEEL MY HONOR WAS INVOLVED SIR!

WELL, YOURS MAY NOT BE, BUT MINE IS! NO ARMED RU-

FIANS ARE ROUGHING UP A GUEST OF MINE! I'VE SENT STEVE TO ROUND UP THE HANDS --WE'RE CALLING ON THE HANNESEYS!



IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, MAJOR, I'D PREFER NOT TO BE THE CAUSE OF A LOT OF TROUBLE! IN FACT, THAT'S WHAT I TRIED TO AVOID YESTERDAY! I'D APPRECIATE YOUR FORGETTING IT!

FORGET IT? I FIND YOUR ATTITUDE HARD TO UNDERSTAND!



WHAT DO YOU FIND HARD TO UNDERSTAND?

WHY, I TOLD JIM WE WERE RIDING AGAINST THE HANNESEYS AND HE DIDN'T SEEM INTERESTED IN JOINING US!



I MERELY HOPED YOU'D CHANGED YOUR MIND! BUT IF YOU ARE RIDING, OF COURSE, I'LL BE WITH YOU!

SEE, DAD? I TOLD YOU JIM WAS A REAL MAN!



YOU CAN RIDE?

TRUE, I'VE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE AT SEA AS CAPTAIN OF MY FATHER'S SAILING SHIPS, BUT I WAS TAUGHT TO RIDE A HORSE AS WELL AS RIDE OUT A STORM!



OH, JIM, I WISH WE'D GOTTEN MARRIED WHEN I WANTED TO! WE HAD SOMETHING WONDERFUL IN THOSE DAYS WHEN I WAS ON YOUR SHIP! I'M AFRAID SOMETHING WILL SPOIL IT!

IF IT CAN'T LAST SIX MONTHS, HOW COULD IT LAST A LIFETIME?



I GUESS I DISAPPOINTED YOU YESTERDAY

NO OF COURSE NOT! -- WELL MAYBE A LITTLE---BUT YOU ARE RIDING WITH THEM TODAY! THAT MAKES UP FOR IT!



I THINK YOU MISS THE POINT! THOSE MEN WERE OBVIOUSLY NOT GOING TO KILL ME IN FRONT OF A WITNESS LIKE YOU! YOU SAID THEY WOULDN'T HARM YOU! I COULDN'T LET YOU DEFEND ME, AND I'D HAVE HAD NO CHANCE AGAINST THE FOUR OF THEM!



GREENHORNS ARE ALWAYS FAIR GAME. I'VE SEEN MY SAILORS GIVE LAND-LUBBERS A ROUGH TIME ON BOARD SHIP! SHOULD I HAVE RISKED KILLING SOMEONE JUST TO SAVE MY SUIT?



THIS IS A BIG COUNTRY! THERE'S NO LAW WITHIN TWO HUNDRED MILES! IF DAD DOESN'T RIDE AGAINST THE HANNESEYS, THEY'LL KEEP WALKING OVER US! --- IF YOU ARE GOING, YOU'LL NEED THIS!



SOON...

WE GENERALLY GET ON FROM THE LEFT SIDE MR. MCKAY!

THAT MUCH I KNOW!



AND I ALSO KNOW WHY EVERYONE — INCLUDING PAT — IS WATCHING! THAT HORSE IS A WILD BRONC! THEY WANT TO SEE ME THROWN AND SHE WANTS TO TEST MY MANHOOD!



TAKE THIS, PLEASE! I DON'T THINK YOUR PLAN IS A WISE ONE AND DON'T USE ME TO JUSTIFY YOUR FIGHTING, SIR!



BESIDES, MR. LEECH HAS PROVIDED ME WITH SUCH A GENTLE HORSE, I DON'T THINK HE COULD KEEP UP WITH YOU!

MEANWHILE, AT THE HANNESEY RANCH...

SOMEONE SEND BUCK A-RUNNING TO ME!



WANT ME, DAD?

I DIDN'T TELL YOU TO BEAT UP ANY STRANGERS DID I?



HECK, I JUST MUSSED UP THE DUDE A LITTLE! WHAT'S THE HARM? YOU WANT TO KEEP PUSHING TERRILL, DON'T YOU?

NOT TWICE IN ONE DAY, YOU FOOL! TERRILL IS A STUPID, HOT-HEADED MAN! HE THINKS HE CAN BUFFALO US ANY TIME HE WANTS TO RIDE HERE!



BUT I DON'T WANT HIM HERE TILL I'M READY FOR HIM! KEEP YOUR PISTOL HOLSTERED TILL I TELL YOU TO USE IT! IF YOU HAD KILLED THAT DUDE I'D HAVE TURNED YOU IN MYSELF! IS THAT CLEAR?

IT'S CLEAR!



NOW DON'T GO WASTING TIME FIGURING HOW YOU CAN GET THE BEST OF ME! ROUND UP THE HARDCASES WE LET HIDE OUT HERE SO WE'LL BE READY IF TERRILL COMES! THEN FIND ME THAT BROKEN-DOWN PREACHER BEAMIS! I MAY WANT HIM TO PERFORM A MARRIAGE IN A FEW DAYS!



YES, WE'RE **TRASH!** I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CALLED IT, ALWAYS WILL BE! BUT MAYBE I CAN WHIP THE LIKES OF HIGH AND MIGHTY MAJOR TERRILL YET! IF I GET BUCK TO MARRY MISS MARAGON, HER LAND WILL BE **OURS!** AND THEN THE HANNESEYS WILL OWN THIS COUNTY!

AND AT THE TERRILL RANCH...

SI, SEÑOR! MISS PAT JOINED HER FATHER AND THE OTHERS TO RIDE TO SEE THE HERD!

AT LEAST I'VE DONE **THAT** MUCH! NOBODY'LL GET SNOT TODAY!



BUT YOU ARE NOT SERIOUS, SEÑOR, ABOUT RIDING OLD THUNDER? ONLY THE MAJOR AND STEVE HAVE STAYED ON HIM!

SADDLE HIM UP, RAMON!



BUT THIS MORNING...

...I DIDN'T WANT TO GET THROWN OFF HIM JUST TO GIVE MR LEECH A LAUGH! BUT I WILL TRY TO RIDE HIM NOW FOR MY OWN SATISFACTION!



NEIGH!



A DOZEN TRIES LATER...



GIDDAP, OLD THUNDER!



SEÑOR! YOU HAVE *DO*NED IT! I'M A STUBBORN MAN, RAMON!



THE SEÑORITA WOULD BE PLEASED TO KNOW!

THE SEÑORITA IS NOT SUPPOSED TO LOVE ME FOR MY HORSEMANSHIP! I CAN'T SEE WHY THIS SHOULD MATTER TO HER!



I DIDN'T DO IT TO IMPRESS ANYONE IN FACT RIGHT NOW I DON'T KNOW WHY I DID WANT TO DO IT! THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON FOR KEEPING IT *SECRET*!

SI SEÑOR YOU ARE A STRANGE MAN---AND AS YOU SAY A STUBBORN ONE!



NOW, IF I CAN TROUBLE YOU
FOR ONE MORE FAVOR---A
SADDLED HORSE, SOME
FOOD AND WATER
AND A MAP
OF THE AREA!

YOU ARE
GOING RID-
ING AGAIN?

YES, RAMON, AND PLEASE TELL THE TERRILL'S NOT
TO WORRY IF I'M GONE OVERNIGHT! I'VE FOUND MY
WAY HOME ACROSS SOME LARGE OCEANS SO I'M
SURE I CAN MANAGE THE
TEXAS RANGELAND!



NEXT MORNING...

I'M A LITTLE STIFF...
BUT THAT'S ABOUT
THE WORST OF IT!



BUT I HAD TO SEE THIS COUNTRY FOR
MYSELF SO I COULD DECIDE WHETHER
TO STAY HERE WITH PAT AND GO IN FOR
RANCHING OR TAKE HER BACK EAST AND
CONTINUE IN THE FAMILY
SHIPPING BUSINESS!



NOW I MIGHT AS WELL FIND THE BIG
MUDDY---MISS JULIE'S PATCH OF LAND
THAT'S CAUSING ALL THE TROUBLE!



SHORTLY AFTER...

I'LL SOON KNOW IF I CAN
NAVIGATE ON PLAINS! IF
THERE ISN'T A RIVER BEYOND
THAT RISE, I'M IN TROUBLE!



SO THAT'S THE BIG MUDDY! EVEN I CAN SEE
NOW WHY THE WHOLE FUTURE OF CATTLE RAISING
IN THIS AREA COULD DEPEND ON THAT WATER!



JUST HOLD IT
RIGHT THERE,
PILGRIM!

JIM-JIM!

HELLO, JULIE! I'M SORRY FOR
TRESPASSING! I WANTED TO GET A
LOOK AT THE LAND THAT WAS
CAUSING ALL THE TROUBLE
AROUND HERE!



WHERE'S PAT?
YOU AREN'T
RIDING AROUND
ALONE?

JULIE, IF YOU'RE GOING TO TELL
ME THIS IS A **BIG** COUNTRY, I'LL
BE DISAPPOINTED IN YOU!
EVERYONE ELSE HAS **ALREADY**
TOLD ME THAT!



I STILL DON'T
KNOW HOW YOU
HOPE TO KEEP
FROM GETTING
LOST!

I HAVE A MAP AND A
COMPASS! AND
THEY'VE GUIDED ME
TO SOME FINE
SMELLING
COOKING!



BUCK HANNESEY CALLED ON
ME LAST NIGHT! TOLD ME
ABOUT "MEETING" YOU!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT---
YOU SEEM STIFF!

YOUR MR HANNESEY
DIDN'T SEEM TO
LIKE STRANGERS!
BUT THE STIFFNESS
COMES FROM A HORSE
MR. LEECH
OFFERED ME!



RELUCTANTLY JIM MCKAY TELLS OF HOW
HE RODE OLD THUNDER...

RAMON IS A GOOD MAN! HE USED TO
WORK FOR MY GRANDFATHER! BUT I'M
STILL AMAZED AT WHAT YOU DID!



WOULD YOU
SHOW ME
AROUND YOUR
PLACE?

LOVE TO! I DON'T
GET HERE TOO OFTEN!
TEACHING SCHOOL PINS
ME DOWN IN TOWN!



BUT I DON'T LIKE TO LET THE PLACE COMPLETELY
GO TO POT. SO I COME OUT AND WORK
AROUND HERE EVERY SO OFTEN!



LATER ...

OF COURSE IT
WOULD TAKE ME
TWO DAYS TO SHOW YOU
THE WHOLE PLACE!

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH
TO LEARN WHAT I
CAME HERE TO
DISCOVER!



IT'S A LOVELY PLACE, JULIE! WOULD
YOU SELL IT TO ME?



EARLY THAT EVENING, JIM MCKAY RIDES OUT OF JULIE MARAGON'S RANCH, AND...

I SMELL SMOKE I MUST BE GETTING NEAR THE LADDER!

IF THAT'S COFFEE I WOULDN'T MIND SOME!

MR. MCKAY! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU ALL DAY!



THE MAJOR'S ACROSS THE RIVER TRYING TO FOLLOW YOUR TRACKS! MISS TERRILL SENT ME HERE TO CHECK THIS SIDE! SHE'S MIGHTY UPSET!

I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT! I ASKED RAMON TO TELL YOU NOT TO WORRY ABOUT ME!



WELL, IT WAS A FOOLISH STUNT FOR A TENDERFOOT! YOU COULDN'T HELP BUT GET LOST--- IT'S A BIG COUNTRY!



SOON...

JIM ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME WE WERE ALL WORRIED OVER NOTHING?

DEPENDS ON WHO'S VERSION YOU LISTEN TO---

JUST THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIDGE IS WHERE WE FOUND HIM, MAJOR! HE WAS HALF FALLING OFF HIS HORSE! SEEMED IN POOR SHAPE! CAME IN BEGGING FOR COFFEE --- HAD TO REST HIM A BIT BEFORE WE COULD START HOME!



MR. LEECH, FOR THE SAKE OF ACCURACY,
WHY DON'T YOU SAY THAT I LOOKED
TIRED, BUT I WAS HEADING HERE IN
THE RIGHT DIRECTION WHEN I CAME
UPON YOUR CAMPSITE?

ARE
YOU
CALLING
ME A
LIAR?



I AM MERELY
CORRECTING
THE IMPRESSION
YOU ARE GIVING
MAJOR TERRILL!
OUT HERE, CALLING
A MAN A LIAR IS
ASKING FOR A
FIGHT! BUT SEEING
YOU'RE A STRANGER
IN THESE PARTS, I'LL
LET YOU TAKE IT BACK!



IF I'M IN AS BAD SHAPE
AS YOU CLAIM, IT WOULDN'T
BE A FAIR TIME FOR YOU
TO FIGHT WITH ME, WOULD
IT? BUT YOU'RE GAMBLING
THAT YOU CAN BEAT
ME AND THAT
MISS TERRILL
WILL ADMIRE
YOU FOR IT!

IF YOU WERE
A GENTLE-
MAN, YOU'D
HAVE KEPT
HER NAME
OUT OF IT!

BUT SINCE YOU BROUGHT UP HER
NAME, I'LL SAY THIS... I THINK
YOU FOOLED HER BACK EAST WITH
YOUR FANCY TALK! YOU LOOKED
BIG THERE, BUT OUT HERE YOU'RE
MIGHTY SMALL! YOU'RE NOT GOOD
ENOUGH FOR HER AND I'LL
PROVE IT!

YOU'LL PROVE
NOTHING WITH
YOUR GUNS,
FISTS OR
HORSES!
GOOD NIGHT!



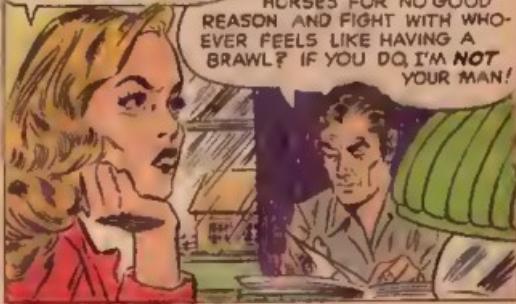
COME BACK HERE!





I SUPPOSE HE COULD BE JEALOUS, NOT THAT I'VE EVER GIVEN HIM THE SLIGHTEST ENCOURAGEMENT! I WAS A BIT DISAPPOINTED IN YOU!

--WHAT KIND OF A HUSBAND DO YOU WANT?—A MAN WHO'LL SHOOT TO KILL AT THE SLIGHTEST INSULT, RISK HIS NECK ON WILD HORSES FOR NO GOOD REASON AND FIGHT WITH WHOEVER FEELS LIKE HAVING A BRAWL? IF YOU DO, I'M NOT YOUR MAN!



NEXT MORNING...

HE WASN'T AT ALL THE
REAL MAN I REMEMBERED
WHO COMMANDED HIS SHIP
AND CREW! OUT HERE, HE
WAS A MOUSE!

DID YOU EXPECT
HIM TO BRING HIS
SHIP WITH HIM?

NO, BUT HE DIDN'T
HAVE TO DO EVERY-
THING WRONG HERE!
NOT FIGHTING BUCK
OR STEVE, GETTING
LOST---

---ARE YOU
SURE HE WAS
LOST? HE
SEEMED TO
FIND HIS WAY
TO THE BIG MUDDY
WITHOUT ANY
TROUBLE!



HE WASN'T
IN TROUBLE?
OF COURSE NOT! HE
JUST SEEMED A LITTLE
STIFF FROM RIDING
OLD THUNDER!

OLD THUNDER!
BUT I WAS WATCHING
HIM WITH THE OTHERS
-- HE DIDN'T EVEN
DARE GET ON
THAT HORSE!

YOU WERE WATCHING?
YOU DIDN'T WARN HIM NOT
TO GET ON THAT OUTLAW
HORSE? YOU'D HAVE LET THE
MAN YOU LOVE GET HURT
FOR THE SAKE OF A
CRUEL
JOKE?



MEN DON'T
LIKE WOMEN
INTERFERING--

--WELL, HEAVEN KNOWS I'D
NEVER HAVE LET MY FIANCÉ
MOUNT A WILD HORSE WITHOUT
KNOWING, WHETHER HE LIKED IT
OR NOT! BUT IF YOU WANT TO
FIND OUT HOW HE DID RIDE
OLD THUNDER, LET'S
ASK RAMON!



MINUTES LATER...

SI, SEÑORITA
MARAGON, HE SWEAR ME INTO
SECURITY, BUT TO THE LITTLE SEÑORITA,
I TELL ALL! SEÑOR MCKAY IS A
STUBBORN MAN! AGAIN AND AGAIN
HE FALLS, BUT FINALLY HE RIDES
OLD THUNDER!



I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, JULIE! WHY DIDN'T HE RIDE WHEN IT MEANT SOMETHING?

OBVIOUSLY, JIM MCKAY IS DETERMINED NOT TO SHOW OFF IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE! IF HE DOUBTS HIS OWN ABILITY ABOUT SOMETHING, HE PROVES IT TO HIMSELF IN PRIVATE!



IF ONLY HE HAD PROVED HE LOVED ME!

HE DID, BUT NOT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE! HE CAME TO ME AND BOUGHT BIG MUDDY FOR YOU! BUT INSTEAD OF TRYING TO UNDERSTAND HIM, YOU THREW IT ALL AWAY BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T PUT ON A CIRCUS FOR YOU!



I'D LIKE YOU TO PAY US A VISIT AT OUR PLACE! COMING?

I DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE! BUT I MAY BE BETTER OFF IF I GO ALONG NOW WITHOUT A PROTEST AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS LATER!



BUT IF HE LOVES ME, WHY WOULD HE LET ME THINK---

--IF YOU LOVE HIM, WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT HE WAS A COWARD?



SOON AFTER, AS JULIE MARAGON RIDES FOR TOWN...

HOWDY, MISS JULIE. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!

YOU HAVE BUCK? WELL WHAT DO YOU WANT?



BUT IF THERE IS TROUBLE, I HOPE SOMEONE RIDING ALONG THE ROAD TO TOWN WILL FIND MY GLOVE!



LATER THAT AFTERNOON IN TOWN AS JIM PREPARES TO LEAVE...



I BROUGHT YOU THIS/ DAD SAID UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE COULDN'T KEEP THE DUELING PISTOLS.

I WAS HOPING HE WOULD!



I GUESS I HAVE TO GIVE YOU BACK YOUR RING, TOO! BUT I'D RATHER YOU TOOK ME IN YOUR ARMS! I CAN SEE HOW STRONG YOU ARE BY THE WAY YOU LIFT ME DOWN--STRONG ENOUGH TO RIDE OLD THUNDER!

I SEE! YOU TALKED TO RAMON! I RODE OLD THUNDER SO NOW I'M RESPECTABLE AGAIN! FIT TO BE MARRIED TO A TERRILL!

JIM! I LEARNED I HAD MISJUDGED YOU AND CAME TO APOLOGIZE!

WHAT ABOUT STEVE LEECH? I'VE RIDDEN THE HORSE, BUT DON'T I HAVE TO FIGHT STEVE LEECH, TOO, TO QUALIFY FOR MARRIAGE? AND THEN MAYBE YOU'D LIKE ME TO SHOOT BUCK HANNESEY FOR A WEDDING PRESENT!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DRIVING AT! NATURALLY, A GIRL LIKES TO KNOW THE MAN SHE'S GOING TO MARRY IS STRONG AND BRAVE ...

--I'M NOT PARTICULARLY STRONG, PAT, AND NOT VERY BRAVE / YES, I'LL FIGHT TO PROTECT A LIFE, MY OWN OR SOMEONE ELSE'S, BUT I WON'T FIGHT FOR YOUR PRIDE OR MINE!



I SEE I'M WASTING MY TIME!

WE WERE FORTUNATE TO HAVE FOUND OUT ALL THIS BEFORE WE WERE MARRIED, PAT! I'M SORRY IT DIDN'T WORK OUT!



JULIE TOLD ME THAT YOU BOUGHT THE BIG MUDDY! DAD SAID IF THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT, I WAS TO ASK YOU IF YOU'D SELL IT TO US!

TELL HIM I'M NOT INTERESTED IN SELLING RIGHT NOW.

SOON...

HELLO RAMON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN TOWN?

I AM LEAVING THE RANCH. I AM NOT A DOG TO BE WHIPPED!



DID LEECH DO THAT? NOT LEECH! IF HE EVER TRIED ANYTHING WITH ME, I WOULD CUT HIS THROAT OR BE KILLED BY HIM! ND, IT WAS THE SENIRITA TERRILL! SHE SAID I MADE A FOOL OF HER! SHE WAS FURIOUS AT ME! IT IS NOT A GOOD PLACE TO WORK!

BUT IT IS NOTHING! NOW I LOOK FOR SENIRITA MARAGON! DID YOU SEE HER? SHE DROPPED THIS GLOVE ON THE WAY TO TOWN!

NO, MISS MARAGON HAS NOT BEEN HERE!



SHE START FOR TOWN AN HOUR OR TWO BEFORE ME, SENOR! I HAVE NOT PASSED HER ON THE ROAD! I HAD BETTER FIND HER TRAIL WHERE SHE DROPPED THE GLOVE!

WAIT A MINUTE! I WANT TO RIDE WITH YOU!



LATER...

BLAST IT, BUCK, GIVE THE LADY A HAND DOWN! ANYBODY'D THINK YOU WERE BROUGHT UP LIKE TRASH!



WHAT DO YOU WANT MR HANNESEY? IF IT'S ABOUT BIG MUDDY AGAIN I'LL DISCUSS IT SOME OTHER TIME!

I LIKE A GAL WHO COMES RIGHT TO THE POINT!



A FEW HOURS FROM NOW A FELLOW NAMED JACKMAN WILL RIDE INTO THE LADDER. HE'LL GASP OUT A STORY OF HOW LITTLE MISS MARAGON WAS BROUGHT HERE BRUISED AND TIED UP! THE MAJOR'S BEEN LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO WIPE US OUT! WHEN HE RIDES HERE, THERE'LL BE A GUN AIMED ON EVERY MAN OF HIS! YOU'D KILL THEM ALL?



THAT'S UP TO YOU! THE MAJOR WILL ORDER US TO DELIVER YOU UP! BUT YOU'LL BE LOOKING FRESH AND UNHARMED! THEY'LL KNOW JACKMAN'S STORY IS PHONY! THEN YOU'LL INVITE THEM TO YOUR WEDDING!

M-MY WHAT?



MISS MARAGON, THIS IS THE REVEREND BEAMIS WHO'LL MARRY YOU TO BUCK—UNLESS YOU WANT TO SEE THE MAJOR AND ALL HIS MEN DIE---BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T ACT LIKE YOU WANT TO MARRY BUCK, THOSE HIDDEN GUNS GO INTO ACTION!

AND WHAT WILL THAT DO FOR YOU?



GET ME THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW I PROMISED BUCK AND BRING BIG MUDDY TO US!

HE'S WRONG THERE! BUT IF I TELL OLD RUFUS JIM OWNS IT NOW, HE'LL REALIZE WE HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO ENTER THE SALE OFFICIALLY! AND TO GET THE TEMPORARY PAPERS WE'VE DRAWN UP, HE'D MURDER JIM TO STEAL THEM!



WE'RE HAVING DINNER, MISS MARAGON! AFTERWARDS, YOU'LL BE SHOWN TO YOUR ROOM! I RECKON YOU HAVE SOME THINKING TO DO!



HAVING FOLLOWED JULIE MARAGON'S TRAIL TILL DARKNESS MADE THEM CAMP, JIM MCKAY AND RAMON PICK IT UP AT FIRST LIGHT THE NEXT MORNING. .

WERE YOU SERIOUS LAST NIGHT ABOUT WANTING TO RAISE CATTLE HERE, SEÑOR?

YES, RAMON, BUT I'M NOT MAKING ANY PLANS TILL I FIND MISS JULIE!



GOOD MORNING, MAJOR! I'M LOOKING FOR MISS JULIE AND I BELIEVE SHE IS IN THE CANYON---

...I KNOW SHE IS! SHE WAS TAKEN THERE BY FORCE! A HANNESEY HAND NAMED JACKMAN RODE TO OUR PLACE LAST NIGHT AND TOLD US THAT!



IF WE RIDE IN TOGETHER, THERE'S BOUND TO BE A FIGHT...

...THAT'S RIGHT, MR. MCKAY, AND YOU DON'T LIKE FIGHTING, DO YOU?



BLANCO CANYON IS AHEAD! IT IS OBVIOUS SHE WAS TAKEN THERE BY THE HANNESEYS...

--WHO'S COMING UP, RAMON?



BUT WE'LL CUT DOWN THAT WOLF PACK ONCE AND FOR ALL!

THAT COULD BE DANGEROUS FOR MISS MARAGON IF THERE'S ANY SHOOTING!



I SUGGEST, SIR, THAT ONE MAN RIDE IN, TALK TO THE HANNESEYS AND HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY! HE MIGHT LEARN WHERE MISS MARAGON IS HELD! I WILL GO!

YOU ARE GOING TO RIDE IN THERE ALONE?



I APPRECIATE YOUR OFFER, BUT I SEE NO REASON TO BARGAIN WITH SCOUNDRELS!

SIR, DID YOU COME HERE TO SAVE A GIRL'S LIFE OR MERELY TO SETTLE A PRIVATE GRUDGE?

DON'T RIDE IN!... IT'S A TRAP!

PAT, WHAT'S WRONG?



I WAS IN TOWN---HEARD A DRUNKEN COWBOY BRAGGING HOW HE HAD GOTTEN PAID FOR BRINGING YOU INTO A TRAP! HIS NAME WAS JACKMAN! HE SAID OLD RUFUS HAD HIM TELL YOU A FALSE STORY TO BRING YOU HERE!

WELL, I CAN'T LEAVE JULIE IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE HANNESEYS! I'M RIDING ON IN!

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE THERE? SHE'S GIVEN BUCK PLENTY OF ENCOURAGEMENT!



I'LL JUST ASK HER AND SEE IF YOU ARE CORRECT!

SEÑOR, WAIT! I KNEW THE LITTLE SEÑORITA LONG BEFORE YOU! HER GRANDFATHER WAS MY FRIEND! I RIDE WITH YOU!

DON'T LOOK UP SEÑOR. I SAW THE GLINT OF A GUN BARREL---WE ARE WATCHED!



LIGHT, STRANGER! BY YOUR CLOTHES, YOU MUST BE MCKAY! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

THERE'S SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER MISS MARAGON IS HERE OF HER OWN FREE WILL OR NOT!



I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, MR. MCKAY, BUT I'M QUITE ALL RIGHT!

GOOD! THEN PERHAPS, I CAN ESCORT YOU HOME!



I'M AFRAID NOT! I'M STAYING HERE! YOU SEE, BUCK HANNESEY AND I ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED!

YES, THE REVEREND BEAMIS IS HERE TO PERFORM THE LITTLE CEREMONY!



IN THAT CASE, THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO DO BUT OFFER MY CONGRATULATIONS! NATURALLY, YOU DON'T WANT TO DISCUSS BUSINESS NOW!

WHAT BUSINESS WOULD YOU BE HAVING WITH THIS GIRL?



HASN'T MISS MARAGON TOLD YOU? I BOUGHT THE BIG MUDDY FROM HER THE OTHER DAY! THERE ARE A FEW LEGAL DETAILS WAITING TO BE TAKEN CARE OF, BUT THEY CAN WAIT!

DID YOU REALLY SELL HIM YOUR PLACE?



YES, HE OWNS
THE BIG MUDDY!

AND THE BILL OF SALE IS IN A
SAFE PLACE! I CAME HERE TO
MARRY MISS TERRILL AND NAT-
URALLY, I MADE OUT A WILL IN HER
FAVOR! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS
TO ME, THE BIG MUDDY GOES TO
MISS TERRILL!

WELL, I'LL BE HANGED!
THREE YEARS OF WAITING
AND PLANNING AND I'M
A COUPLE OF DAYS
TOO LATE!...
YOU HAVE
PROOF?

MR. MCKAY
PAID TWO
THOUSAND
DOLLARS DOWN
IN CASH! HERE IS
HIS NOTE FOR
THE BALANCE!

I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR
PRICE PLUS A PROFIT
OF THREE THOUSAND
DOLLARS!

LET MISS
MARAGON LEAVE
AND WE'LL TALK
ABOUT IT!

ALL RIGHT! GIVE ME THE BILL
OF SALE AND YOU CAN ALL RIDE
OUT OF HERE!

NO, THEY CAN'T--
NOT HER!

YOU'RE ASKING FOR
TROUBLE FOR ALL OF US.
BUCK!

YOU DON'T MIND AS LONG
AS YOU GET WHAT YOU
WANT OUT OF A DEAL,
DO YOU?

HE'S RIGHT, I RECKON! I PROMISED HIM
SOMETHINGS! HE DID HIS PART! IT'S NOT
HIS FAULT IF THE PLAN OF MINE DIDN'T
WORK OUT RIGHT! THE DEAL IS OFF!
MCKAY, YOU AND RAMON
BETTER MAKE TRACKS!

YOU MEAN
YOU'D FORCE
MISS MARAGON TO
MARRY BUCK?

SHE'S NOTHING TO
ME, SON! EXPECT
ME TO FIGHT MY
OWN FLESH AND
BLOOD FOR HER?

HANNESEY, I'VE
OWED YOU SOM-
ETHING SINCE THE
DAY I ARRIVED...



GIVE HIM A GUN,
SOMEBODY! GIVE
THAT DUDE A GUN!

IT IS A WILD GAMBLE---BUT
SOMETHING IN THE WAY OLD
RUFUS KEEPS WANTING TO
BE TREATED LIKE A RESPECT-
ABLE GENTLEMAN MAY MAKE
THIS TRICK WORK!



RAMON, TELL THE GENTLEMAN
THAT IF HE WANTS SATISFACTION
FOR THE BLOW, I'LL BE GLAD TO
OBLIGE HIM! HERE ARE THE
PISTOLS AND I ASSUME
TWENTY PACES
IS AGREEABLE!

TELL
HIM TO
TURN
AROUND
UNLESS
HE WANTS IT
IN THE BACK!



HOLD ON, BUCK! YOUR WOMEN
ARE YOUR BUSINESS, BUT I SAY
WHO GETS SHOT AROUND
HERE! SEEKS MR. MCKAY IS
CHALLENGING YOU TO
A DUEL!

HERE
ARE THE
WEAPONS!



REAL GENTLEMEN'S WEAPONS! I THINK
IT'S TIME BUCK FOUGHT A GENTLEMAN!
I'M TIRED OF WATCHING HIM YANK OUT
HIS SIX-GUN EVERY TIME A FLY BITES
HIM!--BUCK, YOU DRAW FAST, BUT
CAN YOU FACE A MAN ON
EVEN TERMS?

I'LL FIGHT
HIM WITH
ANY
WEAPON!



I'M CUTTING MY OWN THROAT, MCKAY! IF HE KILLS YOU, I LOSE BIG MUDDY TO TERRILL! IF YOU WIN I LOSE A SON! BUT I LIKE YOUR STYLE--- THOUGH I SUPPOSE YOU'RE A DEAD SHOT WITH THIS PRETTY THING!

MINUTES LATER, AS OLD RUFUS LOADS AND PACES OFF THE DUELING DISTANCE...



AS HIS BROTHERS JEER, BUCK WATCHES HIS FATHER RELOAD BOTH PISTOLS AND THEY TAKE THEIR PLACES...



BUCK HIT THE DUDE'S ARM!

YES, BUT IT ISN'T STOPPING HIM FROM FIRING! IF HE TAKES HIS TIME, HE'LL DROP BUCK!

I-I CAN'T DO IT---HEAVEN HELP ME BUT I CAN'T SHOOT TO KILL!



MINUTES LATER, THEY TELL WHAT HAPPENED IN THE CANYON ..

I STILL SAY
THEY SHOULD BE PUNISHED
FOR WHAT THEY AIMED TO
DO TO MISS MARAGON!

ONE MAN IS DEAD!
THAT'S ENOUGH
FOR TODAY! TURN
AROUND AND
RIDE HOME

OUT OF THE
WAY OR I'LL
RIDE YOU
DOWN!

I WOULDN'T FIGHT YOU
FOR A LADY'S SMILE, MR
LEECH, BUT I WILL FIGHT
YOU FOR THE LIVES OF THE
MEN WHO'D DIE IF
YOU ATTACKED!



BUT I WARN YOU, I COMMANDED MY OWN
SHIP AT TWENTY-ONE! I OFTEN HAD TO
GET DISCIPLINE WITH MY FISTS! SO IF
YOU'D LIKE TO AVOID THE FIGHT AND
APOLOGIZE FOR
STRIKING ME THE ...

APOLOGIZE! I'LL
FIX YOU GOOD
THIS TIME!

OTHER
DAY...



HE'S STILL TRYING
TO GET UP! HE
HAS COURAGE!



YES, HE DOES BUT
COURAGE AFTER A
IS A FAIRLY
COMMON
THING!

GIDDAP!

WELL, JULIE, I GUESS I CAN RIDE BACK WITH YOU WITHOUT HAVING TO MAKE ANY EXPLANATIONS TO PAT!



LATER

BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW OLD RUFUS WOULD MAKE BUCK FIGHT THE DUEL?



I'VE LIVED WITH HONOR A LONG TIME! IT WAS SO WORSHIPPED IN MY HOUSE, THAT MY FATHER DIED WITH ONE OF THESE PISTOLS IN HIS HAND FOR AN INSULT WHOSE EXACT NATURE NO ONE COULD REMEMBER LATER! FIVE TIMES HE FOUGHT FOR HIS HONOR---



FINALLY, HE WAS KILLED! MY MOTHER DIED OF GRIEF SHORTLY AFTER! I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULD NEVER LIFT A FINGER FOR THE SAKE OF PRIDE OR HONOR! THIS IS A HARD COUNTRY IN WHICH TO KEEP THAT PROMISE, JULIE!



THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT WOULD KEEP ME HERE---IF YOU BECOME MY WIFE!

THEN I RECKON YOU'RE STAYING!



A PLEDGE TO PARENTS



The Dell Trademark is, and always has been, a positive guarantee that the comic magazine bearing it contains only clean and wholesome entertainment. The Dell code eliminates entirely, rather than regulates, objectionable material. That's why when your child buys a Dell Comic you can be sure it contains only good fun. "DELL COMICS ARE GOOD FUN" is our only credo and constant goal.

TENDERFOOT JOKES

THE TENDERFOOT IN THE OLD WEST WAS ALWAYS THE VICTIM OF PRANKS DURING HIS BREAKING-IN PERIOD. BEFORE HE BECAME AN "OLD HAND," HE WAS SENT TO DO A VARIETY OF IMPOSSIBLE JOBS. A FAVORITE WAS SENDING THE NEW-COMER TO THE STORE FOR "STRIPED PAINT."

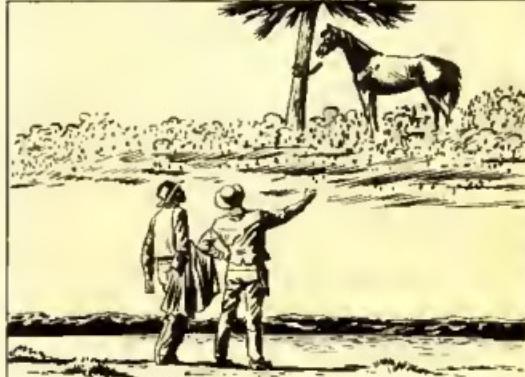


SOMETIMES, A NEW HAND WAS GIVEN MACARONI TO PLANT AND HE WATERED AND TENDED THE CROP CAREFULLY UNTIL HE CAUGHT ONTO THE TRICK.

PROSPECTORS FOOLED NEWCOMERS BY MINING "JACK PINE GOLD" SUPPOSELY CAUGHT IN TREES AS THEY PUSHED THROUGH THE EARTH, BUT REALLY HIDDEN TO TRICK THE UNWARY.



STORIES TO FRIGHTEN A TENDERFOOT WERE TOLD OF DUST STORMS SO THICK THAT AFTER ONE, A TIED HORSE COULD BE FOUND STANDING SEVENTY FEET IN THE AIR.



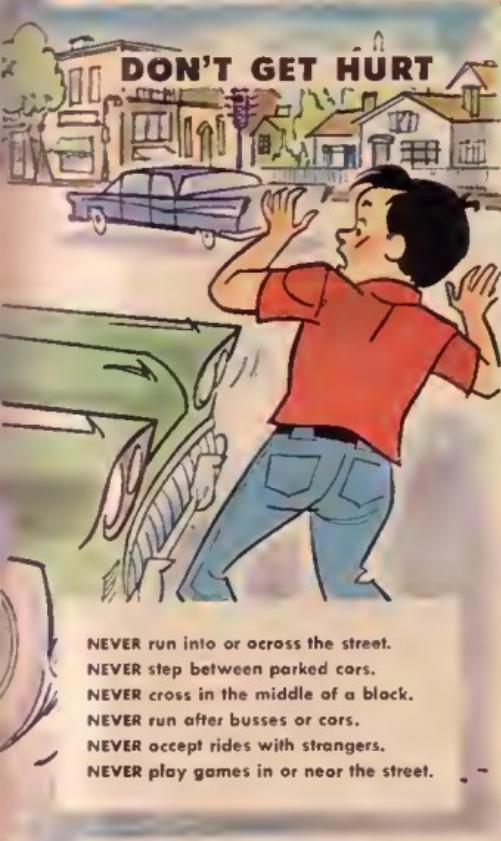
"FEARSOME CRITTERS" WERE MADE BY PAINTING AND DECORATING COMMON RANCH ANIMALS. ALL WAS DONE TO TEASE AND MOST TIMES EVEN THE TENDERFOOT ENJOYED THE FUN.



JUICY FRUIT GUM
PRESENTS
HAVE FUN SAFELY

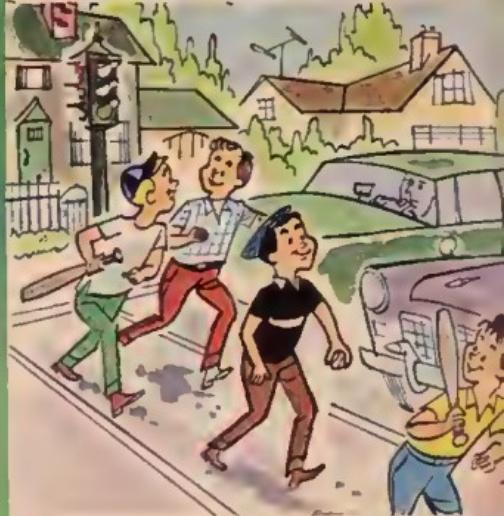


DON'T GET HURT



NEVER run into or across the street.
NEVER step between parked cars.
NEVER cross in the middle of a block.
NEVER run after busses or cars.
NEVER accept rides with strangers.
NEVER play games in or near the street.

BE SMART—PLAY SAFE



ALWAYS cross at crosswalks.
ALWAYS look both ways and around corner before crossing the street.
ALWAYS walk, don't run, across streets.
ALWAYS wait for the green when crossing at a traffic light.
ALWAYS walk on the sidewalk, if possible.
If you must walk in road, face traffic.

HERE'S ANOTHER SMART IDEA...

You'll go for the delicious flavor of Juicy Fruit Gum—and chewing this swell gum helps keep your teeth clean. Remind your Mom to bring some home.

